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Are the Mormons Christians?

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The sole warrant for the existence of the Mormon Church is their claim that the gospel was taken from the earth; that there was no church on earth that God recognized from Apostolic times to the time of Joseph Smith; that the discovery of the plates from which the Book of Mormon is claimed to have been translated, together with other Mormon revelations, was God's way of restoring the gospel to the world; that the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ were not sufficient to save the world without the Mormon priesthood and ordinances; that the Bible, which was good enough two thousand years ago, is insufficient now, and has been supplemented by a revelation through Joseph Smith and his successors. Thus the essential faith of all the Christians in the world is opposed and condemned by the Mormons. How then can Mormons be Christians?

Whatever their missionaries may preach, it is certainly true that faith in the person of Joseph Smith as the prophet of the Lord, and not in Jesus Christ alone as the Saviour of men, is essential to salvation. In their catechism, chapters 17 and 18, they certainly make faith in the doctrines and priesthood of the Mormon Church, and absolute submission to the same, indispensable con-

ditions of acceptance with God. All this is opposed to the teachings of the Bible and the doctrines of the Christian Church.

The friendship of Mormons for Christians appears only when they are abroad trying to win converts, not in Utah, where they draw the line sharply, expelling parents from their communion for allowing their children to attend a Christian Sabbath-school, and "cutting off" men and women from their Church and delivering them "to the buffeting of Satan" for attending the services of a Christian minister.

Christians believe that there is but one God. Mormons believe in many gods. Christians believe that God is divine and the creator of man. Mormons believe that Adam is God, the creator of this world, "and our God, the only God with whom we have to do." Christians believe that Christ alone can save and that "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Mormons believe that there is another name that is essential, that of Joseph Smith; that we must be saved and may become not only saints but gods by accepting the dispensation of Joseph Smith, paying tithes and obeying the Mormon priesthood.

The Christian's God says: "I am the Lord thy God, I change not." The Mormon's god changes his mind sometimes. He may reverse a duty that was once essential to salvation and make it a sin, and make that which was once a sin a new condition of salvation and exaltation. The Book of Mormon, which they received in 1830, states clearly that "David and Solomon had many wives, which thing was an abomination to the

Lord," and then proceeds to denounce polygamy as one of the most offensive sins in the sight of God. Thirteen years later their god changed his mind and gave a revelation to Joseph Smith making monogamy offensive to God, and polygamy very pleasing to him and a condition of exaltation in the next world. The Mormons also teach that God is a polygamist and that Jesus Christ had three wives; that the marriage at Cana of Galilee was his own marriage to both Mary and Martha, all of which is offensive to Christian people and repugnant to the teachings of the Word of God.

The wide departure of Mormonism from fundamental truth appears also in their view of the Holy Spirit, which they consider not a divine person at all, but a sort of mesmerism "with which a man is filled" and which the man thus filled, if he be a Mormon priest, may impart to another. One of their authorities says: "Like electricity, it is imparted by the contact of two bodies through the channel of the nerves." In striking contrast to this read what God reveals to us in His Holy Word (John xiv. 26): "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Be not deceived. Do not grieve this blessed heavenly visitor, the third Person of the adorable Trinity, the Holy Ghost, but open your hearts and receive Him and He will lead you into all truth.

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